



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/505,695	02/17/2000	Ivan Berry	0932/00381	6935

7590 07/11/2003

Epstein, Edell, Shapiro, Finnann & Lytle, LLC
1901 Research Blvd., Suite 400
Rockville, MD 20850

[REDACTED] EXAMINER

LE, THAO X

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	2814

DATE MAILED: 07/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/505,695

Applicant(s)

BERRY ET AL.

Examiner

Thao X Le

Art Unit

2814

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 May 2003 .

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 2-6, 14 and 24 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 2-6, 14 and 24 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

 a) All b) Some * c) None of:

 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgement

1. Applicant's cancellation of claims 7-11, 13, and 15-23 in Paper No. 11 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. ²Claims 3-6, 14 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6046115 to Molloy et al. in view of US 5669979 to Elliot et al.

Regarding to claims 24 and 4 Molloy discloses the method of enabling the removal of fluoride-containing residue, column 2 line 1-10, from a semiconductor substrate with gas and/or vapor to which the residue is reactive and which need not be in supercritical or dense phase from, comprising the steps of: applying a gas and /or vapor to which the residue is reactive to the semiconductor substrate while the temperature of the substrate is at an elevated level with respect to ambient temperature; exposing the substrate to the gas plasma simultaneously with gas and/ or vapor applying step, wherein the applying and exposing steps are continued for a time period sufficient to render the residue to be soluble in deionized water, and rinsing the substrate with deionized water, fig. 2.

*Column 3
line 15*

But Molloy does not expressly disclose the process using the ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

However, Elliot reference discloses the UV radiation can be used to decompose organic material including photoresist, column 1 lines 25-30 and example 1. At the time of the invention was made; it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the UV radiation teaching of Elliot to replace the gas plasma of Molloy, because UV radiation would have provided fast cleaning and removing sub-micron particle as taught by Elliot, column 4 lines 35-40 and 55-58.

Regarding to claims 2, Molloy discloses the method wherein the gas and/or vapor is comprises of at least one member selected from the group consisting of amines, column 4 line 36.

Regarding to claim 3, Molloy does not expressly disclose the method wherein the gas and/or vapor is applied at a pressure of between 50 torr and at about one atmosphere.

But Molly discloses the pressure is 1.5 torr. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in art to use or combine (teaching of second reference) in the range as claimed, because it has been held that where the general conditions of the claims are discloses in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable range by routine experimentation. See *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955).

Regarding to claim 5, Molloy discloses the method wherein before the gas is applied; an ashing process is performed on the photoresist, column 1 line 10-13.

Regarding to claims 6 and 14, Molloy discloses a method wherein the gas includes at least one member selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, column 4 line 45.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thao X Le whose telephone number is 703-306-0208. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wael M Fahmy can be reached on 703-308-4918. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

Thao X. Le
June 24, 2003



PHAT X. CAO
PRIMARY EXAMINER